

KIMBERLEY AND FRANK

All in worn denim stood Kimberley with her back to Frank and, spotting a book on the lowest shelf, stooped so that her shoulders plunged to the fore even as her hips thrust back at Frank doing his best not to sigh too audibly at the iridescence, the panoramic iridescence, of her denim's seams and creases. And, as expected, the book she'd pulled was the one on Japanese swords, telling how relentless craftsmen would bend their bar of hot iron, crease it, smash the crease flat only to introduce another, creasing and smashing inch by inch to temper their ultimate blade, a brisk crescent that severed you before you knew. How many times had the hot water and detergent gnawed at the fibers of these jeans she, Kimberley, so splendidly stressed and stretched in wearing them, wearing them to wear them down, wearing them to wear them away, wearing them years and years to arrive at, finally, this sculptural crisis of baby blue and harsh navy and cotton white and ultramarine? "Good book, isn't it?" Frank suggested.

"Pretty macho, if you ask me," Kimberley shot back, without turning around.

-- William Marsh

New York NY

COINCIDENCE

messiah means snake
virgin means un-
married woman
snake is thunder
unmarried woman
is blessing
the connection
between thunder and
blessing is
the lightning that
strikes as understanding